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Coordination, programme and other questions: mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Liechtenstein,* Lithuania and Mexico: draft resolution

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1] and recalling its resolutions 2001/41 of 7 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, 2003/49 of 24 July 2003 and 2004/4 of 7 July 2004,

Reaffirming also that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality and constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[3]

Underlining the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the important role played by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

Welcoming the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session,[4]

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I.A.

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1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[5] especially in mainstreaming a gender perspective in entities of the United Nations system;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the progress and continued efforts by United Nations entities to address gaps between policy and practice in mainstreaming a gender perspective in their respective fields of work;

3. *Expresses concern* at the remaining gaps between policy and practice, with particular challenges relating to inadequate institutional mechanisms, including in the area of data collection, accountability, monitoring, reporting and training, as well as inadequate resource allocation;

4. *Calls upon* all entities of the United Nations system, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to intensify efforts to address the challenges to the integration of gender perspectives in policies and programmes, including by:

(a) Developing action plans, where these do not yet exist, with clear guidelines on the practical implementation of gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes;

(b) Ensuring that action plans include timelines and specific provisions on institutional mechanisms at both headquarters and field offices and that they are fully coordinated with overall organizational goals and strategies;

(c) Fully incorporating a gender perspective in programme budgets and multi-year funding frameworks and into all results-based budgeting processes;

(d) Ensuring continuous awareness raising and training on gender issues for all staff, including by integrating a gender perspective into all training programmes, as well as assessing the impact of the gender component of the existing training programmes to improve their effectiveness;

(e) Building the capacity of staff to undertake gender analysis and requiring staff to apply gender analysis to both policy formulation and programmatic work;

(f) Ensuring full and strong commitment by senior management officials to gender mainstreaming and its implementation in policies, programmes and projects;

(g) Strengthening accountability systems for all staff for gender mainstreaming, including through performance appraisals;

(h) Incorporating a gender perspective into operational mechanisms, in accordance with the national development strategies, including common country assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, poverty reduction strategy papers and reporting and implementation frameworks, such as those relating to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

(i) Continuing to support Governments and to work with civil society in their efforts to implement the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[3]

[5] E/2005/54.

(j) Further developing and institutionalizing monitoring and evaluation tools and gender impact analysis methodologies and ensuring the use of available sex-disaggregated data;

(k) Promoting the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into key macroeconomic and social development policies and national development programmes;

5. *Takes note* of the work already undertaken to implement General Assembly resolution 59/164 of 20 December 2004 on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, and urges continued efforts towards its full implementation;

6. *Encourages* the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women as well as other relevant United Nations entities to maintain their efforts to raise awareness of gender issues across the United Nations system;

7. *Recommends* that all entities of the United Nations system continue to promote cooperation, coordination and the sharing of methodologies and good practices, including through the development of tools and effective processes for monitoring and evaluation within the United Nations, in the implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2,[1] in particular through the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and recommends further that all inter-agency mechanisms pay attention to gender perspectives in their work;

8. *Also recommends* that the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality continues to provide practical support to its members in gender mainstreaming and to report regularly to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination through its High-Level Committee on Programme and its High-Level Committee on Management in order to facilitate the incorporation of gender mainstreaming perspectives into their work;

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to strengthen inter-agency and country team collaboration on gender mainstreaming, including through the creation or expansion of electronic knowledge networks on gender mainstreaming;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2006 on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations, with a focus on training activities.